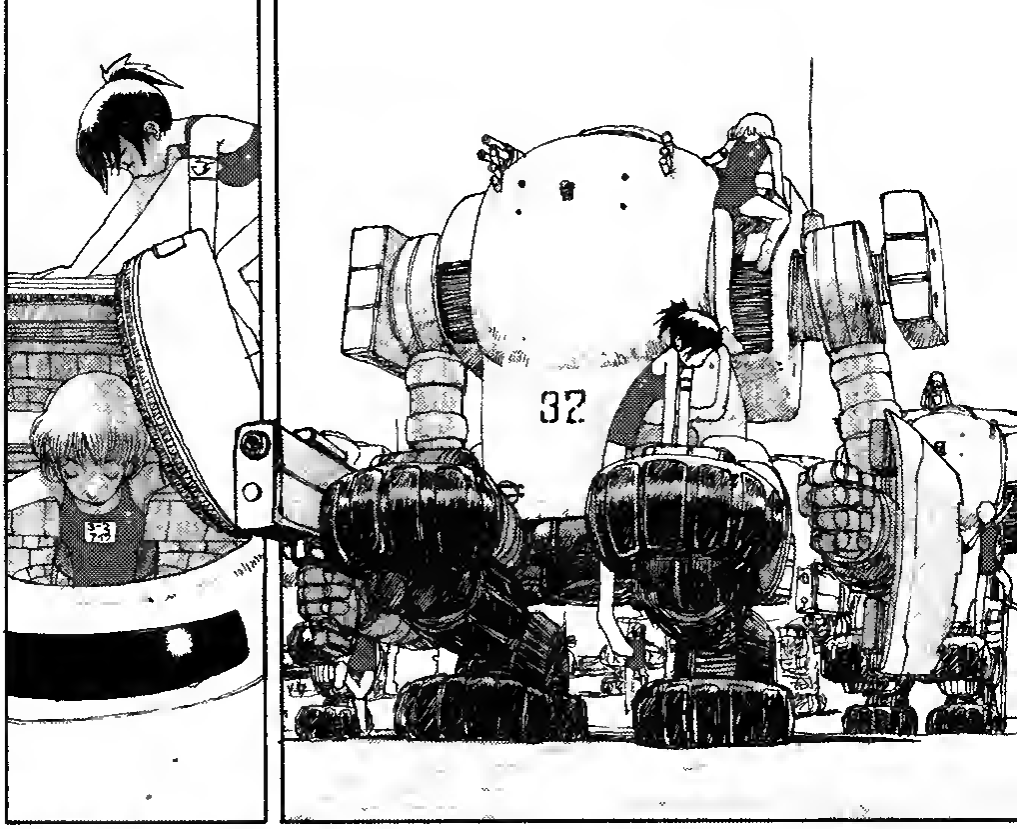
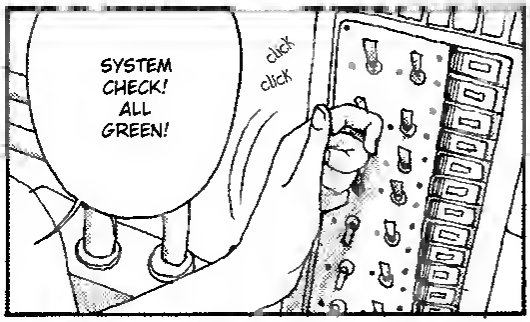
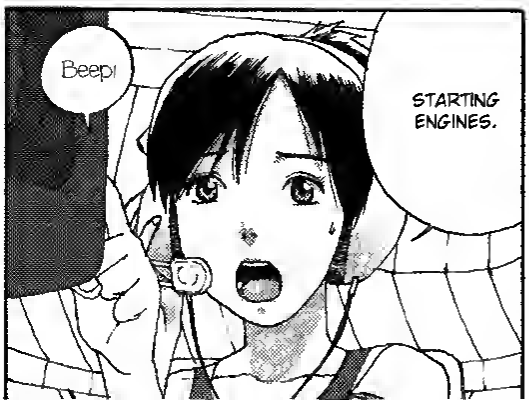
Chapter 3
Kato x Aira
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR!
FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT!
crash
crash
crash
crash
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR!
FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT!
3-2 KATO
3-2 AIRA

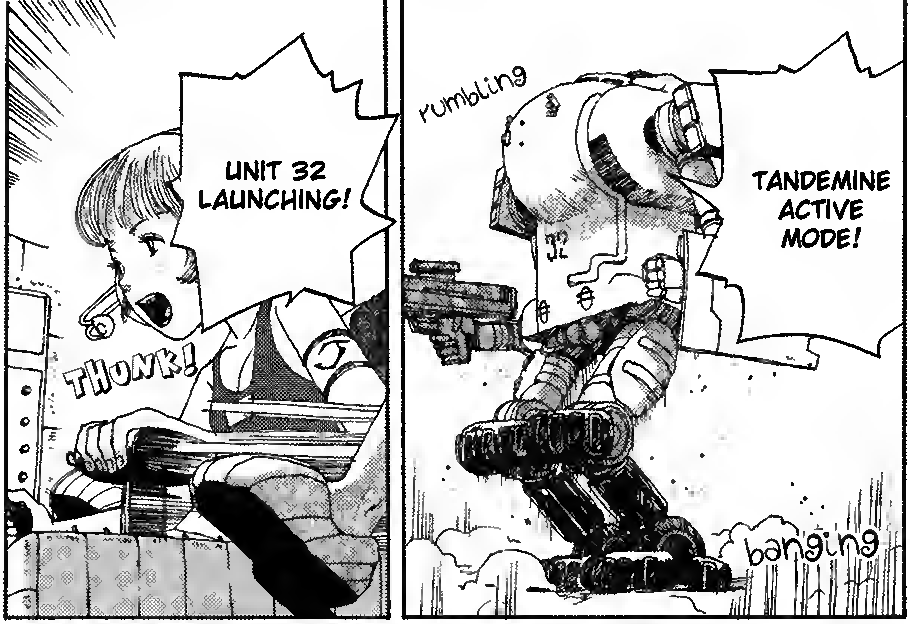
shhh
crash
shhh
crash
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR!
FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT!
Inhale
Exhale
whistle
whistle

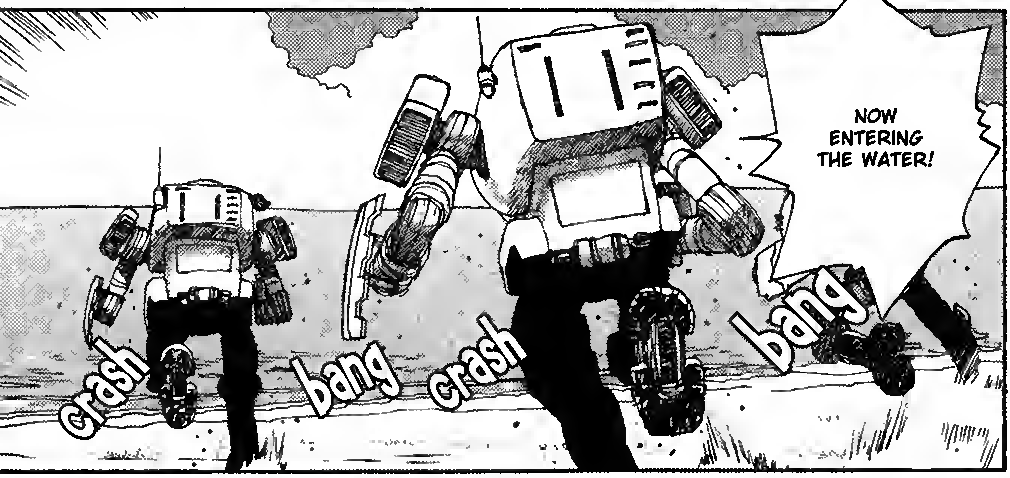
YES, MA'AM!
DASH!
BEGIN SWIMMING TRAINING!
TP TS
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

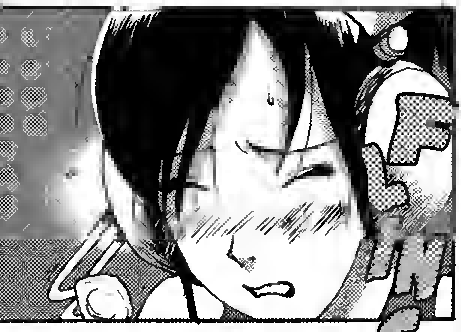

32

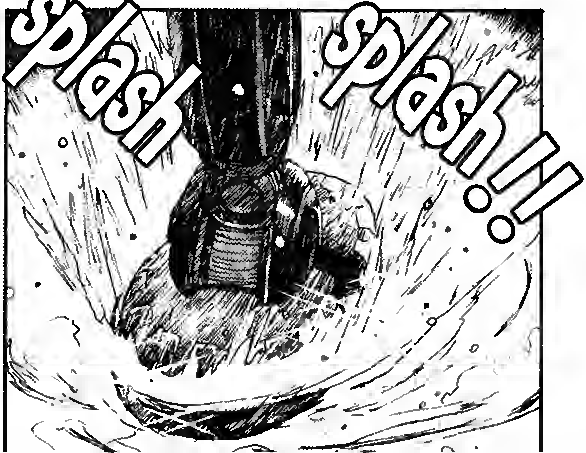

SYSTEM CHECK! ALL GREEN!
click click

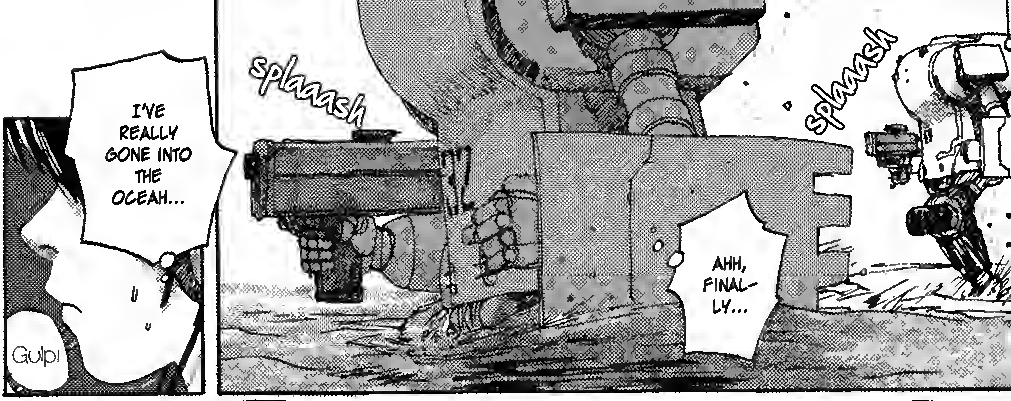

Beep!
STARTING ENGINES.

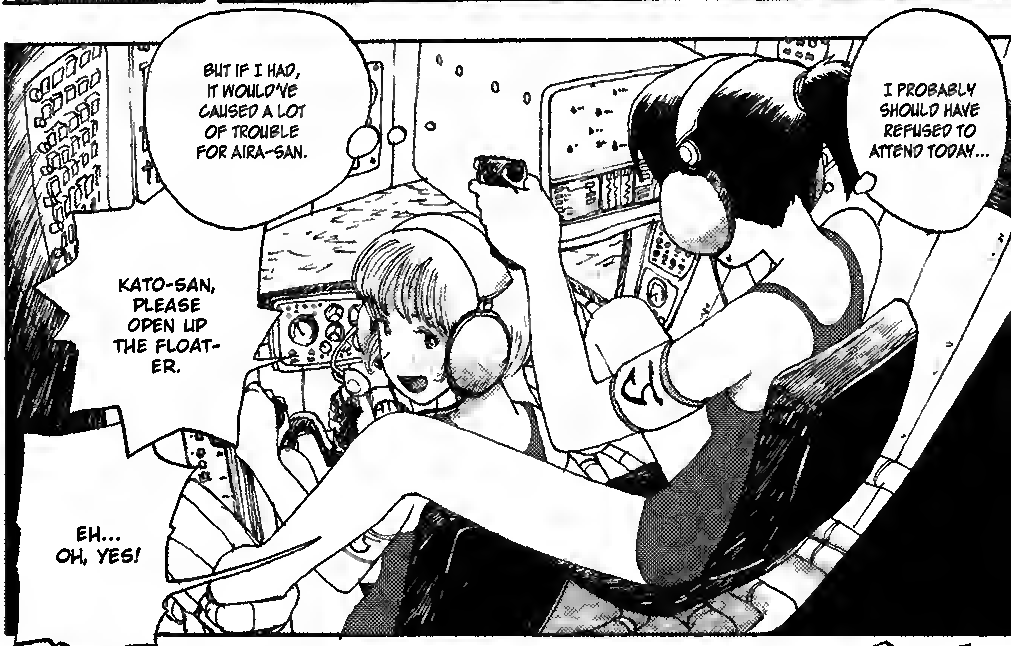

UNIT 32 LAUNCHING!
THUNK!
rumbling
TANDEMINE ACTIVE MODE!
banging

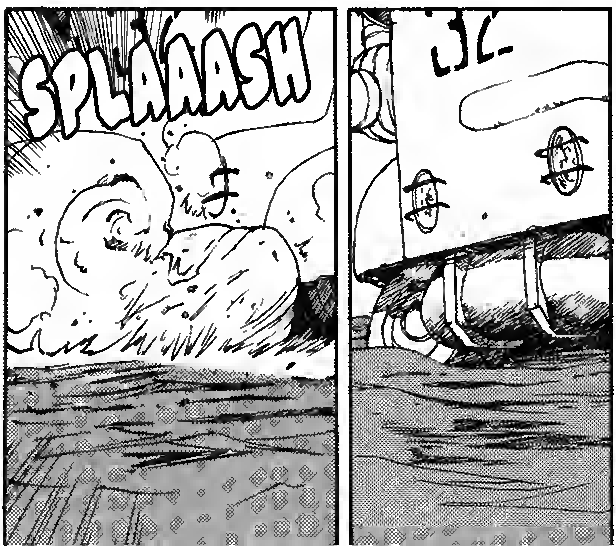

NOW ENTERING THE WATER!
crash
bang
crash
bang


EEEEE


Splash
Splash!!


I'VE REALLY GONE INTO THE OCEAH...
Gulp
splaaash
splaaash
AHH, FINAL-LY...


BUT IF I HAD, IT WOULD'VE CAUSED A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR AIRA-SAN.
I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE REFUSED TO ATTEND TODAY...
KATO-SAN, PLEASE OPEN UP THE FLOAT-ER.
EH... OH, YES!


SPLAAAASH

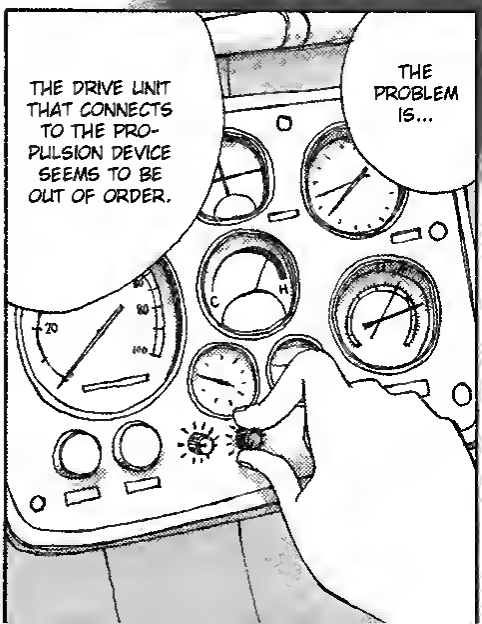
F-FLOATER OPEN!!

32
!!S S
START HYDRO-JETS!!
RUMBLE

KATO-SAN, ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
HUH? YEAH...
W... WHY?
WELL, YOU'RE NOT ACTING LIKE YOURSELF. YOU'RE SHAKING, AND YOUR FACE IS FLUSHED.
I GUESS YOU CAN TELL AFTER ALL...
WELL... YOU SEE...
YOU'RE SCARED OF WATER?!
...YEAH, I SINK LIKE A ROCK.
EVEN NOW, JUST KNOWING THE TANDEMINE IS SURROUNDED BY WATER IS MAKING ME SWEATY...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

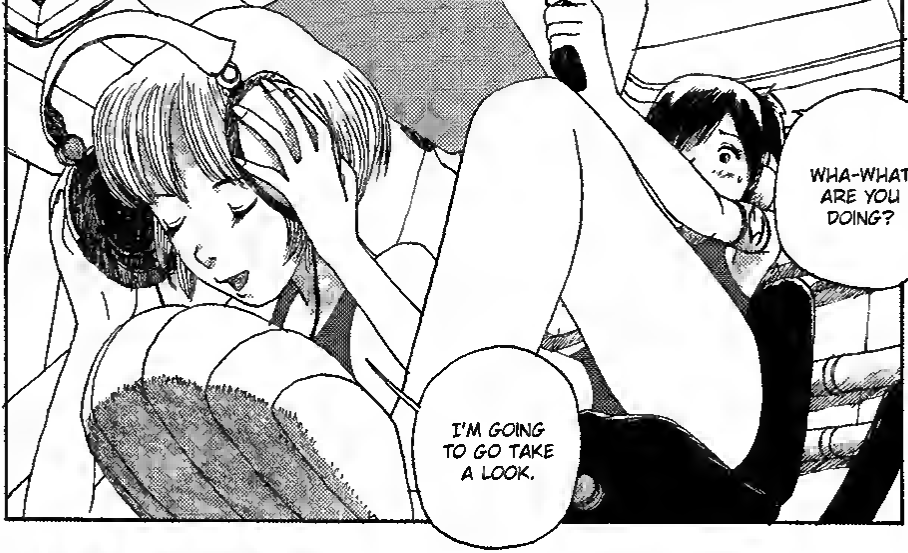
PLEASE, LET'S KEEP GOING!!
N-NO!!
HMM... LET'S HEAD BACK, THEN.
SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS...
WELL, THAT'S TRUE...
Hmmm
THE TANDEMINE IS DEFINITELY FINE ON THE SURFACE, BUT IT'S AIRTIGHT WHEN IT'S SUBMERGED TOO; I WON'T EVEN HAVE TO TOUCH TO WATER!
RUMBLE
ALL RIGHT THEN, LET'S GO AS FAR AS WE CAN.
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD, THOUGH
PLUS, WITH SOMEONE DEPENDABLE LIKE AIRA BY MY SIDE, I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR...
BUT, OF COURSE, I COULD NEVER ACTUALLY SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

AH,
WE'RE REALLY FAR BEHIND THE OTHERS NOW...
rumble
rumble


THE DRIVE UNIT THAT CONNECTS TO THE PROPULSION DEVICE SEEMS TO BE OUT OF ORDER.
THE PROBLEM IS...

FOR SOME REASON, I CAN'T INCREASE THE HYDRO-JET OUTPUT.
YEAH.

HMMMM.
I'LL TRY CHANGING THE CONTROL SYSTEM FROM HERE.
SINCE IT'S CONNECTED DIRECTLY, I CAN'T REPAIR IT REMOTELY.
PLEASE DO.
I'LL STOP THE ENGINES FOR A BIT.
I GUESS WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
thunk
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
AT THIS RATE, WE MIGHT NOT MAKE IT TO OUR DESTINATION WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT...
WELL, THAT'S NOT GOOD.
3-2


WHA-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M GOING TO GO TAKE A LOOK.

FOUND IT!♪

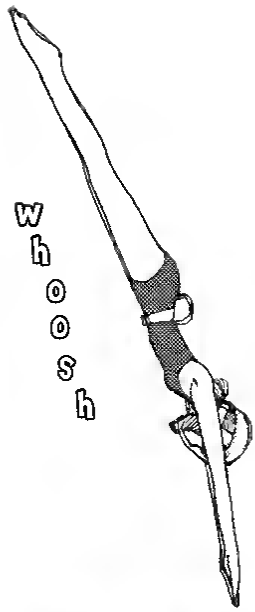
HM, THE EMERGENCY AIR MASK SHOULD BE
SOME-WHERE AROUND HERE.

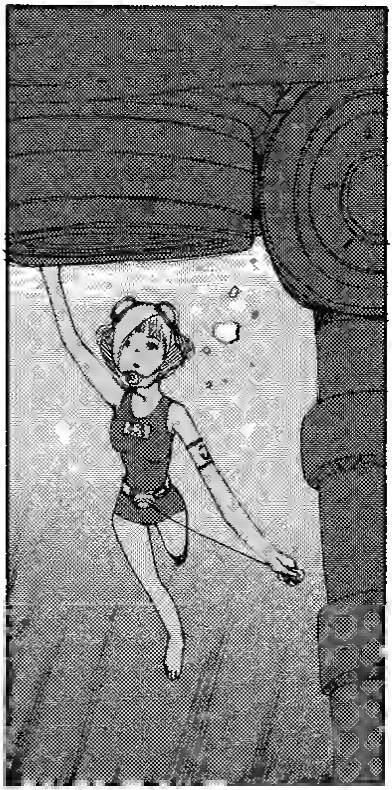
SORRY...
I DON'T WANT TO QUIT HERE.
YOU'VE WORKED SO HARD TO COME THIS FAR.

THERE WE GO!
HIIISS
UGH, IT'S ALL NASTY AND DUSTY.

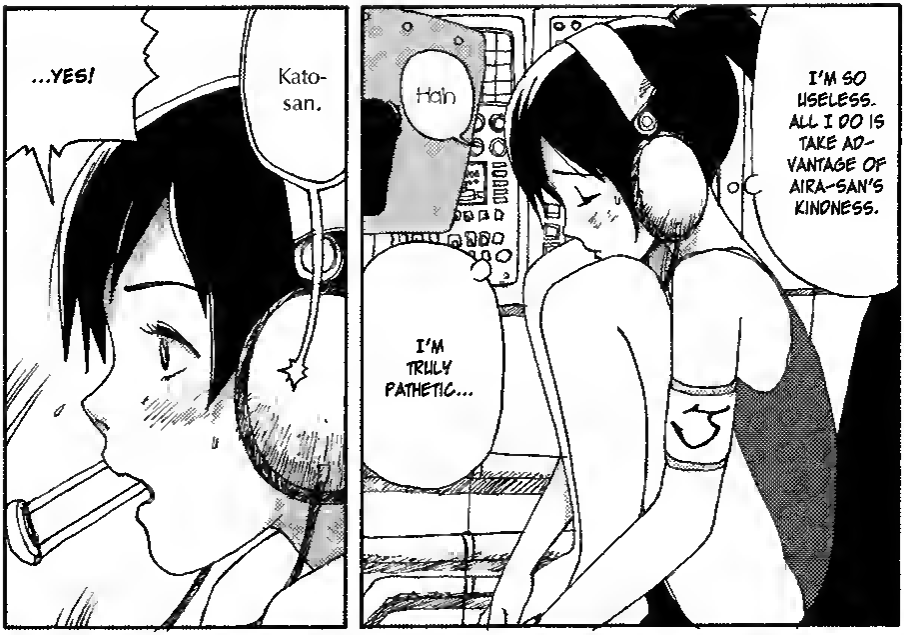
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE GOING OUT ALONE, SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO GET IN THE WATER.
Click!
OKAY? SO SMILE! SMILE!
...OKAY.

SPLASH


whoosh

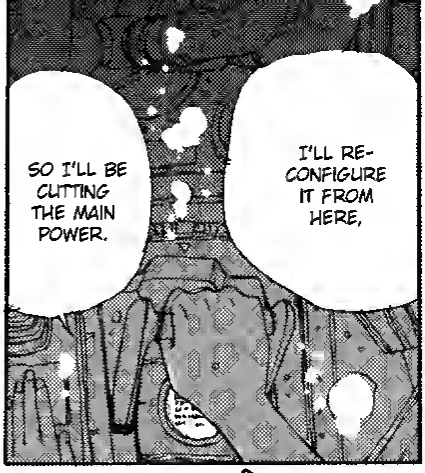


Click!


...YES!
Kato-san.
Hah
I'M SO USELESS. ALL I DO IS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AIRA-SAN'S KINDNESS.
I'M TRULY PATHETIC...

IT LOOKS LIKE THE PROBLEM IS THE CONFIGURATION OF THE DRIVER.

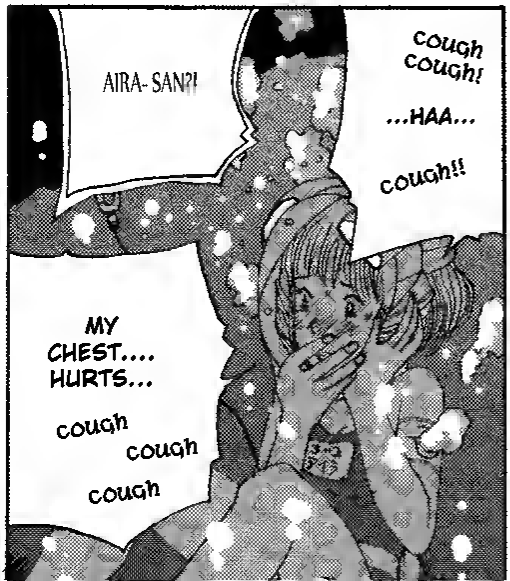
GOOD LUCK.
ROGER THAT.

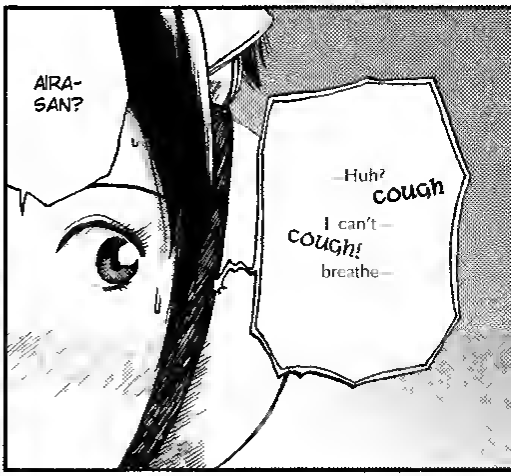

SO I'LL BE CUTTING THE MAIN POWER.
I'LL RE-CONFIGURE IT FROM HERE,

ALL I'VE DONE IS RELY ON YOU...
There's nothing to apologize—
cough... cough

Okay, just 5 minutes—
cough....
I'M REALLY SORRY,

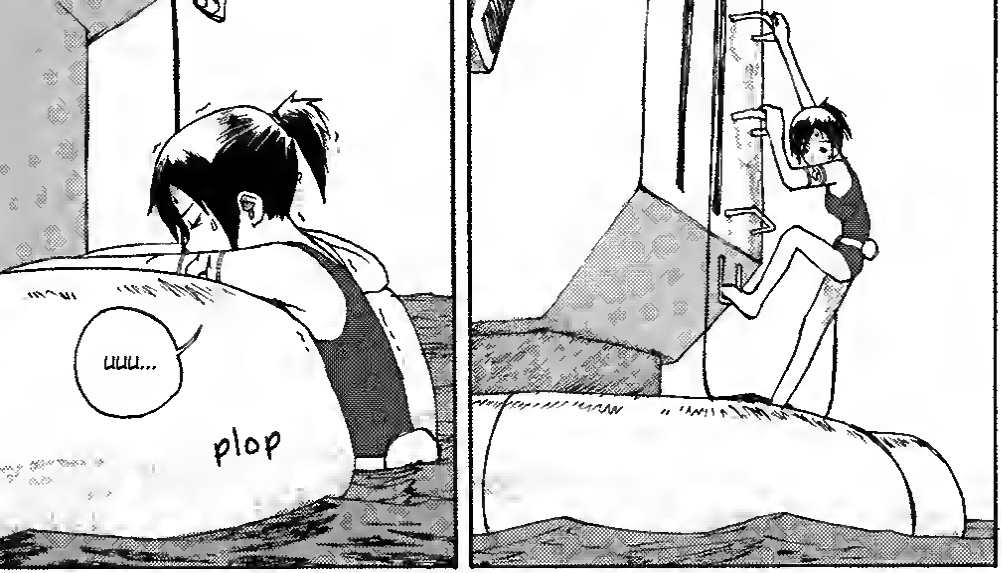
THUNK
VWOOO...
...cough
ALL RIGHT, I'M CUTTING THE POWER NOW.

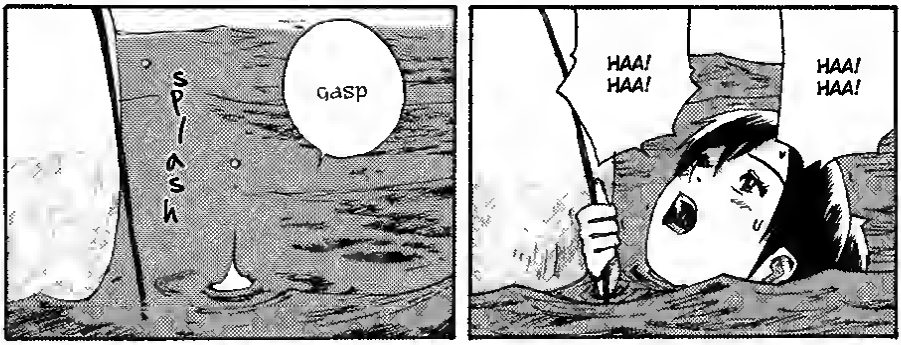

AIRA-SAN?!
cough cough!
...HAA...
cough!!
MY CHEST.... HURTS...
cough
cough
cough

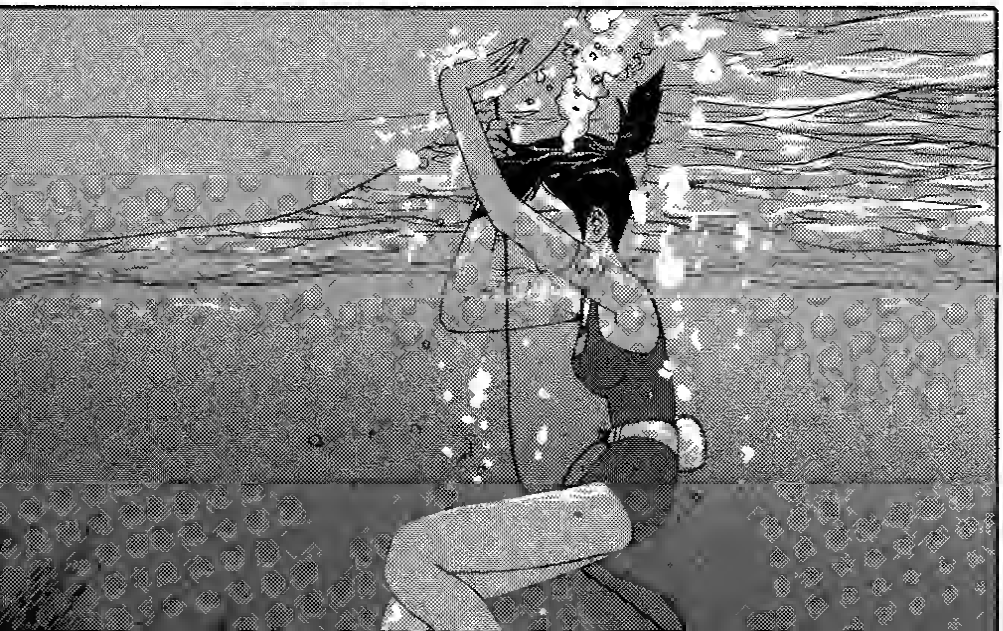

AIRA-SAN?
—Huh?
cough
I can't—
cough!
breathe—

AIRA-SAN!!
AIRA-SAN!!
He...
Help...
cough
.....
We'll arrive in 30 minutes!!
This is the main base! We've received your distress call!!!
EEEOOOEEEOOO
THE EMERGENCY SIGNAL..!!
CLICK
CLICK
THE AIR MASK!
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.
Gulp!
EEEOOOEEEOOO
THIRTY MINUTES?! THAT'S TOO LONG!

THE UNDER-WATER RE-BREATHER IS BROKEN!
I BET AIRA'S IS BROKEN, TOO!
IT'S TWO YEARS PAST THE EXPIRATION DATE!
使用有効期限
45.8.12
expirationdate
WHA...
I HAVE TO...
I HAVE TO GO...
THE POWER IS CUT, SO I CAN'T MOVE THE ARMOR.
Click!


uuu...
plop

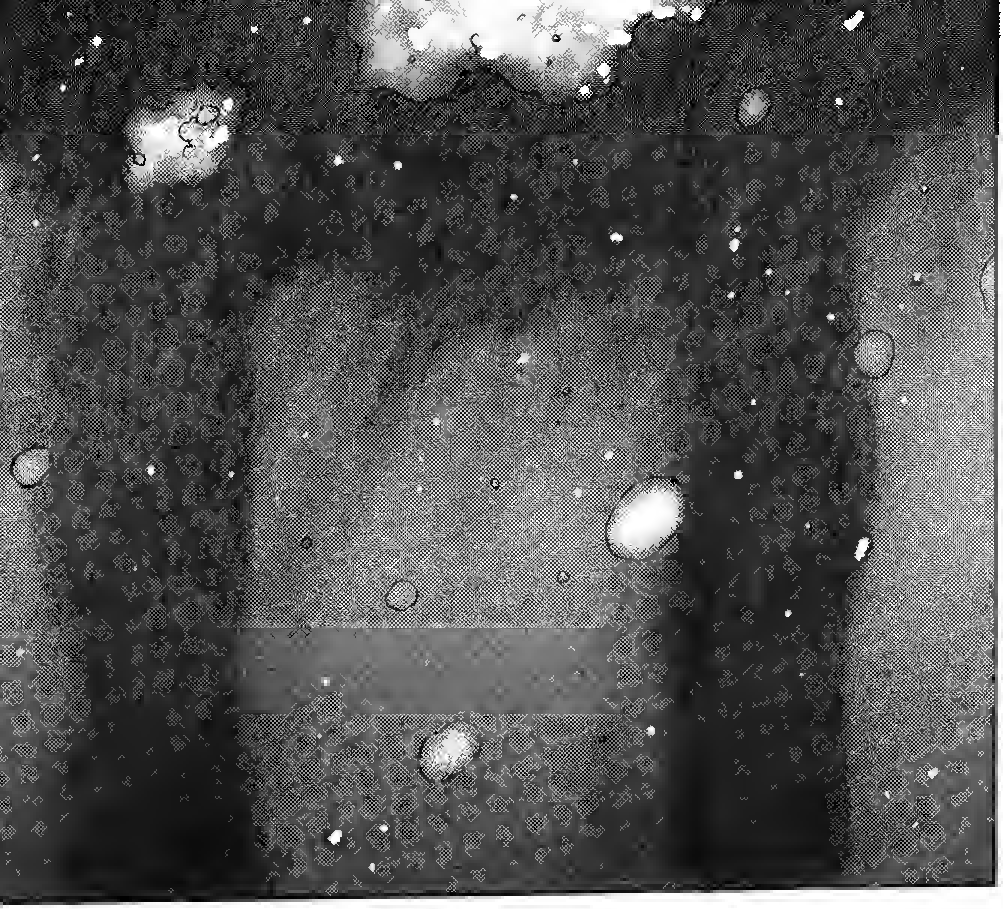

gasp
splash
HAA! HAA!
HAA! HAA!

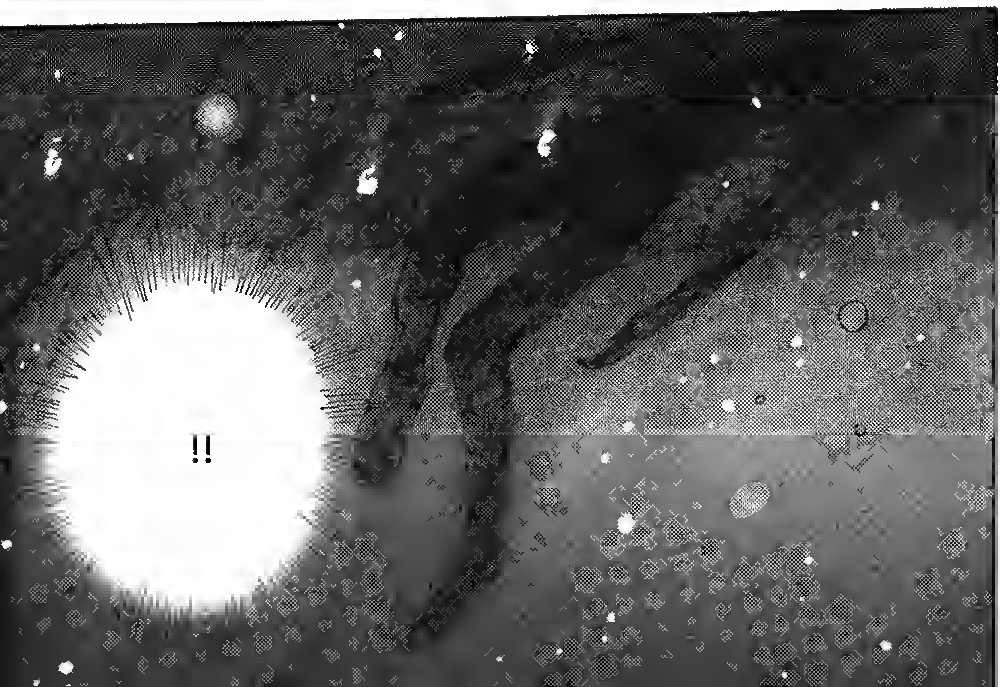


I have to open my eyes..
I have to ..
I don't know what to do! I've never opened my eyes under-water before!
I can't see!
I can't see anything!!

HA!
GET A GRIP, KATO!!
HAA!! HAA!!
SCARIER!!
IS FAR
SHAKING
NEVER SEEING AIRA-SAN'S SMILE
IT'S NOT SCARY AT ALL!
SHAKING
SHAKING
SHAKING

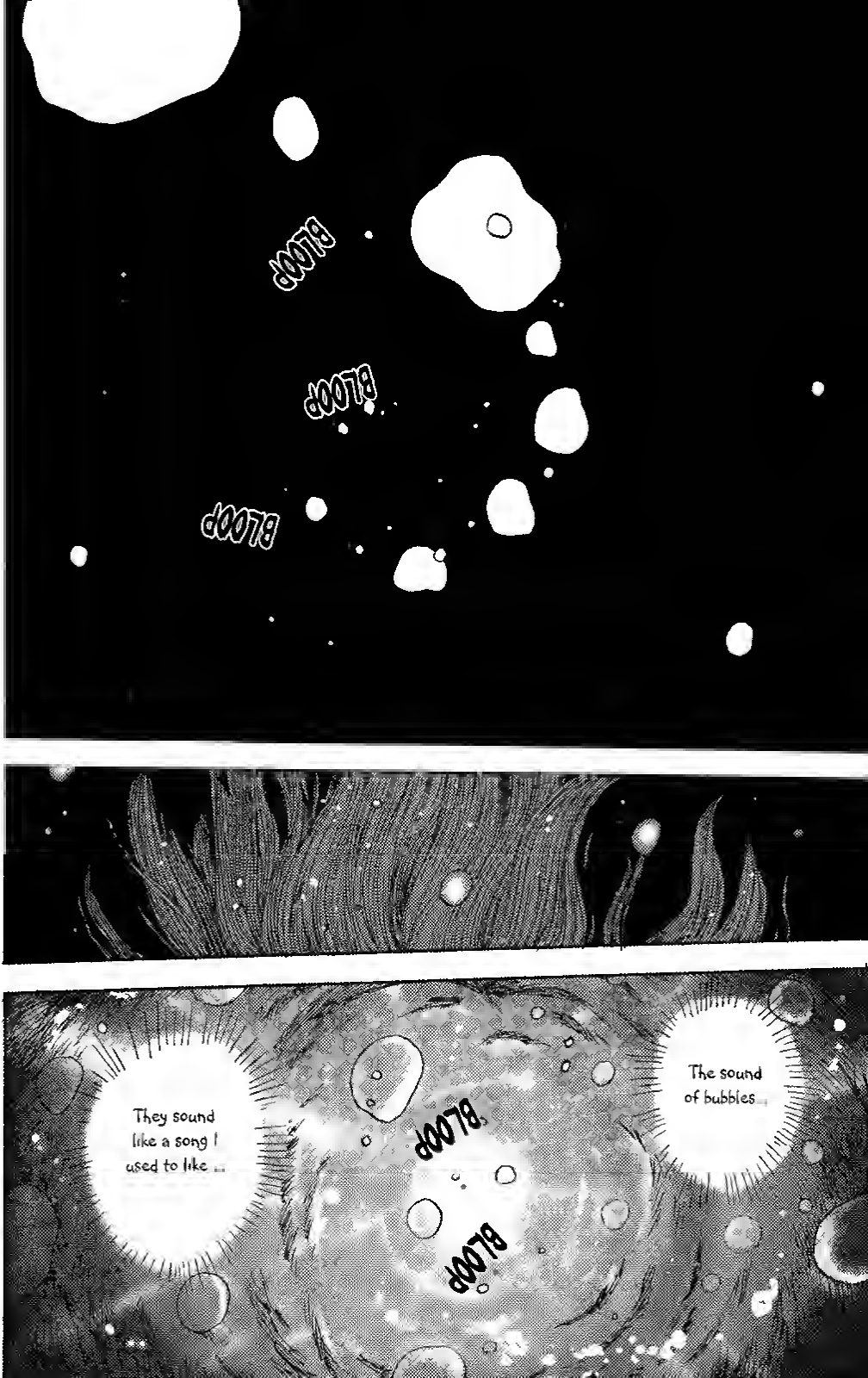
SPLASH

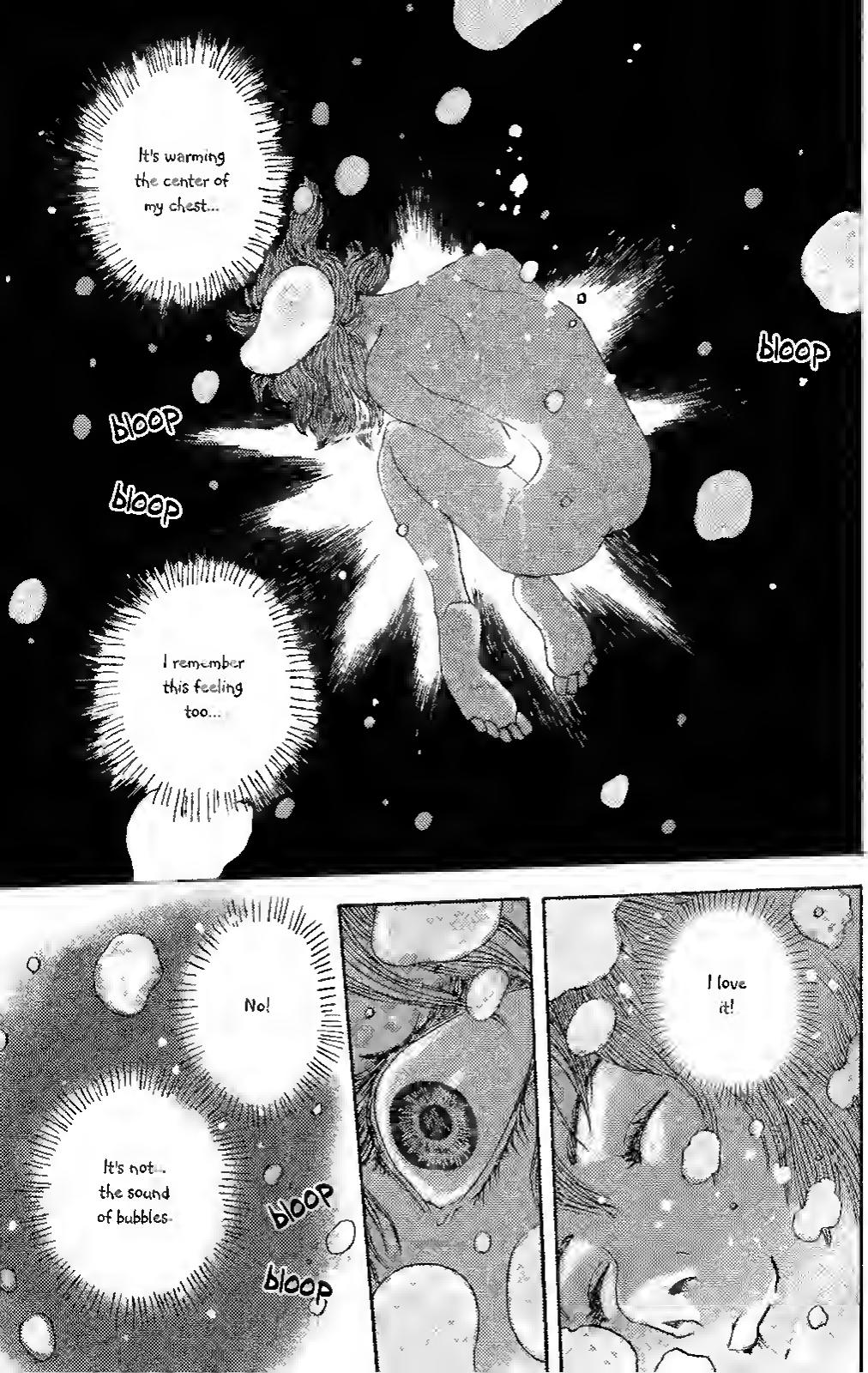




There!
There
she is!
She didn't
get washed
away or sink!

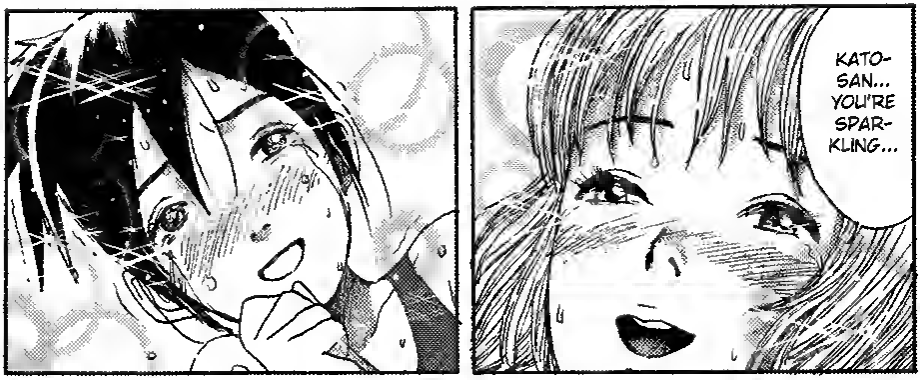
I'm at my limit, too...
I have to hurry!
CLACK!
She's hooked onto the Tandemine!!
Ahh!!
I can't feel my fingers!!
My chest hurts...
rattle
rattle
Gasp!
—I can't go on—
No— Not this—

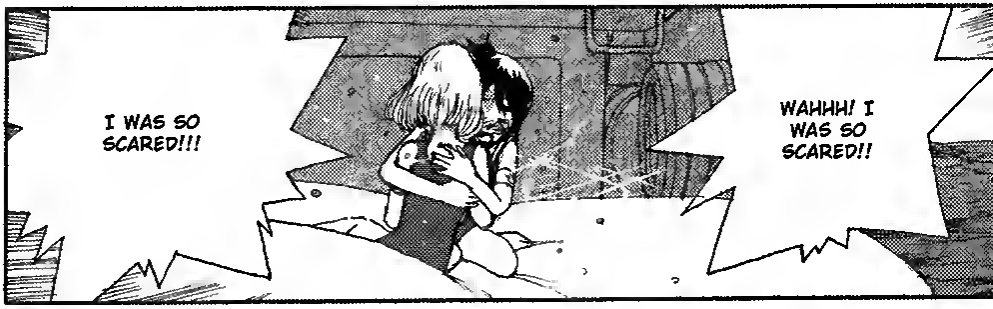

BLOOP
BLOOP
BLOOP
They sound like a song I used to like ...
BLOOP.
BLOOP
The sound of bubbles ...

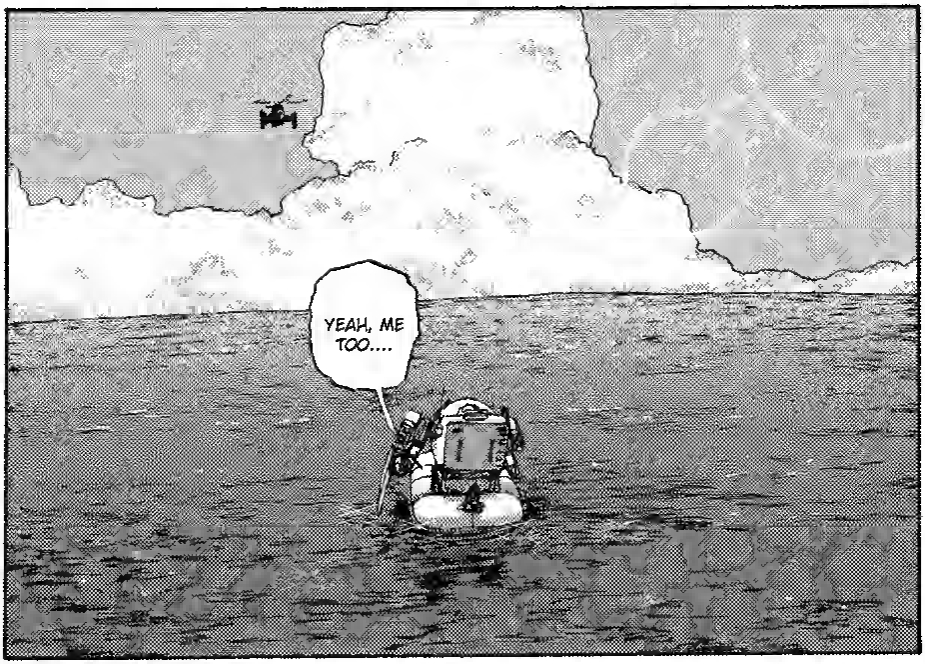

It's warming the center of my chest...
bloop
bloop
bloop
I remember this feeling too...
No!
It's not... the sound of bubbles-
bloop
bloop
I love it!

This warmth in my chest too...!
bloop
gurgle
gura!
airgara!
AIRA-SAN!!
Voices! Voices are calling to me!

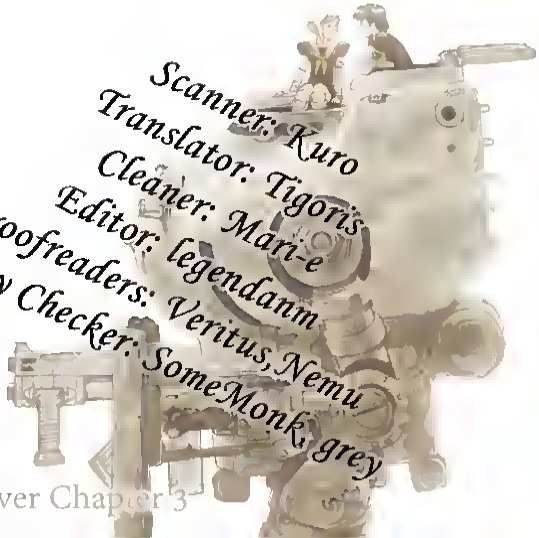
AHH.
AIRA-SAAN!!


KATO-SAN... YOU'RE SPAR-KLING...


I WAS SO SCARED!!!
WAHHH! I WAS SO SCARED!!


YEAH, ME TOO....

end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